

Amendments to the claims:

1-31. (canceled).

32. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

receiving data containing a watermark, which data has been subjected to ~~affine~~ geometric distortion;

~~storing said data as n by n blocks of data;~~

spatially translating the ~~blocks of data~~ to compensate for ~~affine~~ geometric distortion;

performing a transformation of ~~the said blocks of data~~; and

extracting the watermark from the translated data blocks.

33. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark as set forth in claim 32, where the data is stored as blocks. ~~value of n is 8.~~

34. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

receiving data containing a watermark, which data has been subjected to ~~affine geometric~~ distortion;

with reference to a steganographically hidden component, determining characteristics of the distortion;

adjusting the data to compensate for the distortion; and

~~storing said data into a predetermined number of n by n blocks of data according to a mapping algorithm of an assumed affine geometric distortion; and~~

extracting the watermark from compensated and the accumulated blocks of data.

35. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark as set forth in claim 34, where said adjusting mapping algorithm ~~comprises a~~ geometric transform.

36. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark as set forth in claim 34, where the blocks each comprises and n by n blocks where the value of n is 8.

37. (canceled).

38. (canceled):

39. (currently amended): A method of extracting a watermark from compressed data containing a watermark comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

receiving compressed data containing a watermark in the form of n by n blocks, which data has been subjected to affine geometric distortion;

transforming the data;

~~storing said blocks into a set of a predetermined number of groups of n by n blocks;~~

adjusting the transformed data to compensate for the affine geometric distortion based on characteristics of an orientation component associated with the watermark; and

~~according to a mapping algorithm of an assumed affine geometric distortion; and~~

extracting the watermark from the adjusted data. ~~the accumulated blocks.~~

40-47. (canceled).